

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

FIXED OBLIGATION GRANT NO. 40540

FINAL GRANT ACTIVITY COMPLETION REPORT

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1. Introduction

The Department of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam was awarded a grant (Fixed Obligation Grant No. 40540) to finance a program aimed at building expertise in National Health Accounts and training next generation of NHA experts on May 13 2013. The grant was awarded under the USAID funded Strengthening Capacity in Health Financing in Tanzania Project, Cooperative Agreement No. AID-621-LA-12-00001 implemented by Abt Associates.

1.1 Objectives of the Program

The program for which the grant was awarded had two objectives:

- 1) Building expertise in National Health Accounts
- 2) Training next generation of NHA experts

1.1.1 Building Expertise in National Health Accounts

This objective pertains to increasing the technical expertise to complete NHA estimations. The Department of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam made four staff available to be trained on the revisions made to the methodology in the System of Health Accounts 2011 (SHA 2011) revisions as well as on the methods of undertaking NHA estimations with the National Health Accounts Production Tool (NHAPT).

1.1.2 Training Next Generation of NHA Experts

This objective involved further institutionalization of health resource tracking by developing a module that fits the Tanzanian context and incorporating it into the teaching curriculum of the University of Dar es Salaam. The module will be used to train the next generation of health economists who are expected to contribute to decision-making and long-term capacity building efforts in the health sector.

The Department of Economics, University of Dar es Salaam has implemented the program for which the grant was awarded by undertaking the following activities:

- 1) Establishment of a team of health economists with expertise in NHA estimations
- 2) Completion of training on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool
- 3) Development of a NHA module to fit the Tanzanian context and incorporating it into the teaching curriculum.
- 4) Submission of a final grant activity completion report

2. Program Implementation

Program implementation involved establishment of a team of health economists with expertise in NHA estimations, completion of training on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool, development of a National Health Accounts module to fit the Tanzanian context and incorporating it into the teaching curriculum, and submission of a final grant activity completion report.

2.1 Establishment of a Team of Health Economists with Expertise in NHA Estimations

Establishment of a team of health economists with expertise in National Health Accounts estimations involved two aspects. The first aspect was the selection of the team members who would undertake training on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool. To this regard, the Department of Economics established a team of five namely, Jehovaness Aikaeli, Otieno Osoro, John Mtui, Stephen Kirama, and Innocensia John to form the team of experts with expertise in National Health Accounts estimations.

2.2 Completion of Training on SHA 2011 and Use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool

Experts from Abt Associates undertook training on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool for 6 days between July 15 and July 22, 2013. The objective of the training was development of local National Health Accounts experts conversant with new NHA analytic tools that can be applied in future NHA estimations in Tanzania in order to reduce the need for technical assistance.

Each training day focused on a different issue. The first day provided a bird's eye view of resource tracking. The second day presented the key ingredients of systems of health accounts. The third day focused on explaining the blue print of the National Health Accounts Production Tool and getting started with it.

The fourth day focused on the key stages of using the National Health Accounts Production Tool while the fifth day involved completing the system of health accounts estimation and looking forward in terms of analyzing and discussing the institutionalization of system of health accounts, and the role of the University of Dar es Salaam in the institutionalization process. The sixth day was a hands on day involving practice of what was learned during the 5 days of the training in order to enable trainees to obtain a better grasp of what was covered.

Since the training involved learning new approaches to increase efficiency of National Health Accounts data, it was an important input to the second project objective of training next generation of National Health Accounts experts since the trainees will be involved in development and teaching the National Health Accounts module.

2.3 Development of a National Health Accounts Module to Fit the Tanzanian Context and Incorporating It Into the Teaching Curriculum

The training on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool built enhanced the capacity of the five members of the Department of Economics in health resource tracking. This was the first step in improving institutionalization of system of health accounts 2011 as it was to be followed by application of the knowledge acquired from the training to develop a National Health Accounts module to fit the Tanzanian context.

The department of Economics developed a National Health Accounts module to fit the Tanzanian context and afterwards revised its health economics curriculum in order to incorporate the National Health Accounts module it had developed. The Department of Economics will start using the revised health economics teaching curriculum in the second semester of the 2013/14 academic year implying teaching of health resource tracking particularly system of health accounts 2011 will commence in February 2014.

2.4 Submission of a Final Grant Activity Completion Report

The grant requires submission of a final grant activity completion report that indicates the usefulness of the grant, identifies challenges encountered during implementation of the program, and provides suggestions/recommendations for further improvement of the National Health Accounts institutionalization process. As activities 1 – 3 have been completed as described in 2.1 - 2.3, only activity 4 (submission of a final grant activity completion report) remains. The final grant activity completion report is thus the objective of this report.

The objective of the final grant activity completion report is to:

- 1) Indicate the usefulness of the grant;
- 2) Identify challenges encountered during implementation of the project; and
- 3) Provide suggestions/recommendations for further improvement of the National Health Accounts institutionalization process

3. Usefulness of the Grant

The grant has been useful in many aspects with regards to the objectives of the program of building expertise in national health accounts and training next generation of NHA experts. The grant has helped in:

- i. Capacity building
- ii. Provision of equipment, software and textbooks
- iii. Strengthening of teaching curriculum
- iv. Improved Institutionalization of System of Health Accounts
- v. Enhancement of linkages

3.1 *Capacity Building*

The grant facilitated training of four members of the Department of Economics on System of Health Accounts 2011. The four members of staff were trained for six days, with each day focusing on a different issue. The training involved:

- 1) A bird's eye view of resource tracking.
- 2) The key ingredients of systems of health accounts. T
- 3) The blue print of the National Health Accounts Production Tool and getting started with it.
- 4) Key stages of using the National Health Accounts Production Tool
- 5) Completing the system of health accounts estimation.
- 6) Hands on practice of what was learned during the training.

The training exposed the four members of the Department of Economics to the revisions made to the methodology in the System of Health Accounts 2011 (SHA 2011) revisions as well as on the methods of undertaking NHA estimations with the National Health Accounts Production Tool (NHAPT).

The training built the capacity of the five members in new NHA analytic tools that can be applied in future NHA estimations in Tanzania. Development of such capacity will reduce the need for technical assistance in undertaking NHA exercises in the country. The training was furthermore a stepping-stone to the second program objective of training next generation of NHA experts as the members of the Department of Economics are to be involved in the institutionalization of healthcare financing in the Health Economics curriculum of the University of Dar es Salaam.

3.2 Provision of Equipment, Software and Textbooks

The grant has been utilized by the Department of Economics to procure equipment and textbooks. Specifically, the grant was used to purchase 16 textbooks and two laptop computers. The textbooks will help in the objective of the program pertaining to training next generation of NHA experts, as students and instructors will use them. The laptops are used for practice and estimation of national health accounts

The grant led to the provision national health account production tool (NHAPT) software to the trained members of staff. The grant furthermore provided reference materials pertaining to health resource tracking to the four trained members of staff that covered Public Expenditure Review (PER), National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA), Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS), and System of Health Accounts (SHA/NHA). The grant's provision of software and textbooks has strengthened the capacity of the Department of Economics to train students in health resource tracking.

3.3 *Strengthening of Teaching Curriculum*

One of the milestones of the program was development of a National Health Accounts module and incorporating it into the teaching curriculum of the Department of Economics. Accomplishment of this milestone entailed development of a National Health Accounts module that fits the Tanzanian context. The program has thus enabled the Department of Economics to develop a National Health Accounts module that previously did not exist for incorporation into the health economics curriculum.

Once a National Health Accounts module that fit the Tanzanian context was developed, the teaching curriculum was revised to incorporate it according to the requirements of the program. The incorporation of the developed National Health Accounts module into the teaching curriculum has strengthened it by adding a module that did not exist prior to the grant.

The revised curriculum will strengthen capacity in health resource tracking by introducing students to health resource tracking with a focus on system of health accounts. The module will provide students with the theory behind the National Health Accounts Production Tool as a stepping stone to use of the tool in undertaking a national health accounts estimations and ultimately analysis of results.

The teaching of the National Health Accounts Production Tool as a result of the revised teaching curriculum will enhance the monitoring of the flow of financial resources within the health sector. This will help inform health financing decisions and monitor health sector performance of the health system.

3.4 *Improved Institutionalization of System of Health Accounts*

The grant has facilitated training of four members of the Department of Economics on System of Health Accounts 2011, development of a National Health Accounts module and revision of the teaching curriculum to incorporate the developed module. All these initiatives have been undertaken to achieve a broader goal of institutionalizing the system of health accounts in Tanzania.

The grant has improved institutionalization of the system of health accounts in Tanzania by building expertise in National Health Accounts by developing local NHA experts conversant with new NHA analytic tools that could be applied in future NHA estimations in the country. Furthermore, the development of a National Health Accounts module and the revision of the health economics curriculum to incorporate it ensure the continuous dissemination of National Health Accounts expertise.

The continuous dissemination of National Health Accounts expertise enhances training of the next generation of National Health Accounts experts by ensuring National Health Accounts expertise is provided to a continuous stream of students every year. This will ensure the continuous flow of National Health Accounts experts and thus improves the institutionalization of system of health accounts in Tanzania.

3.5 *Enhancement of Linkages*

Implementation of program activities entailed the cooperation the Department of Economics with Abt Associates and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Such cooperation has enhanced linkages of the Department of Economics with Abt Associates and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. For instance, the program has laid the foundation of future cooperation the Department of Economics and Abt Associates on other fronts.

Linkage between the Department of Economics and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare have been enhanced through the fact the four members of the Department of Economics who have been trained in System of Health Accounts 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool will participate in future National Health Accounts exercises.

Enhanced linkages between the Department of Economics, Abt Associates and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare ensure a wide pool of expertise in National Health Accounts, which ensures sustainability of National Health Accounts exercises in Tanzania.

4. Challenges Encountered During Implementation of the Program

Implementation of the program was generally smooth although there were a couple of challenges encountered in the course of implementing the program. These were delay in undertaking of training on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool and delayed in feedback on some deliverables. Delay in undertaking of training on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production Tool and delayed in feedback on some deliverables led to delay in meeting the timelines of some of the deliverables.

5. Suggestions/Recommendations for Further Improvement of the NHA Institutionalization Process

The National Health Accounts institutionalization process can be improved by widening initiatives that have been undertaken through supporting:

- 1) Training of more training institutions in National Health Accounts
- 2) Development of specialized training
- 3) Training of local government authorities in National Health Accounts

5.1 Training of More Training Institutions in National Health Accounts

Since the use of training institutions is an effective way of institutionalizing National Health Accounts, participation of as many institutions as possible in offering health resource tracking training is essential in order to speed up institutionalization of system of health accounts in Tanzania.

Participation of more training institutions in institutionalization of system of health accounts by supporting training of members from other training institutions apart from the University of Dar es Salaam on SHA 2011 and use of the National Health Accounts Production tool accompanied by incorporation of the National Health Accounts module that has been developed by the Department of Economics in the teaching curriculum of those training institutions.

5.2 Development of Specialized Training

Revision of the Department of Economics' health economics teaching curriculum to incorporate the developed National Health Accounts module has ensured the teaching of health resource tracking to students in the University of Dar es Salaam. However, the fact that health resource tracking is just one module in the health economics course implies that there is limited time to cover the module content.

The limited time available for teaching the National Health Accounts module within the health economics course limits the extent of the material that can be covered within the time frame set aside for the module. Furthermore, the health economics course within which the National Health Accounts module is located is offered to full-time graduate students and thereby excludes in-service students who prefer part-time courses. In light of this, institutionalization of system of health accounts in Tanzania should also focus on supporting independent health resource tracking courses that stand on their own rather than being just parts of existing course. Development of independent health resource

tracking courses would better cater for the needs and convenience of professionals who tend to demand more specialized and part-time courses.

5.3 Training of Local Government Authorities in National Health Accounts

Local government authorities have the greatest need for information found in National Health Accounts as district health services make up the bulk of the health system in Tanzania by virtue of providing primary healthcare, which is at the basement of the pyramidal structure of healthcare services accessed by the majority of Tanzania's population.

Despite the fact that district health services have the greatest need for the information contained in National Health Accounts, district health managers lack adequate skills to analyze and utilize information in National Health Accounts for planning of district health services. In light of this, institutionalization of system of health accounts in Tanzania should also focus on strengthening capacity of local government authorities by training raining district health management teams on National Health Accounts and use of the National Health Accounts production Tool.